



Howard County Council

George Howard Building
3430 Court House Drive
Ellicott City, Maryland 21043-4392

COUNCILMEMBERS

Mary Kay Sigaty, Chairperson
District 4
Jon Weinstein, Vice Chairperson
District 1
Calvin Ball
District 2
Jennifer Terrasa
District 3
Greg Fox
District 5

Minutes (approved)
Monthly Meeting
February 9, 2015
8:30 a.m.

C. Vernon Gray Conference Room

Members Present: Mary Kay Sigaty, Chair; Jon Weinstein, Vice Chair; Calvin Ball; Greg Fox; Jen Terrasa

Staff Present: Jessica Feldmark, Administrator; Craig Glendenning, County Auditor

The Chair opened the meeting at 8:35 a.m.

Budget Briefing: Ms. Sigaty welcomed County Executive Allan Kittleman and Budget Director Holly Sun and thanked them for attending to provide a budget briefing for the Council. The County Executive introduced Dr. Sun as the County's new Budget Director and explained that the Administration is still reviewing department suggestions for possible FY2015 budget reductions to manage the \$15.8 million shortfall in revenue projections. He plans to announce his final decisions on budget cuts by the end of the week and will inform the Council of the budget reductions before releasing them to the press.

Dr. Sun explained that the State FY2015 mid-year reductions primarily impacted Howard Community College and the Health Department, with minor impacts to police aid. She provided an update on the work of the Spending Affordability Committee, which will submit its report by March 1. She also provided the Council with the fiscal outlook presentation which had been given to the committee. Dr. Sun agreed to attend the Council's monthly meetings in March and April to provide brief budget updates.

Fueling Stations Task Force Report: Task force chair Dick King and members Sharonlee Vogel, Regina Aris, Meagan Braganca, and Rizwan Siddiqi presented a summary of the task force's work, its findings, and its recommendations. In follow-up discussion with the Council, a number of questions were raised:

- Dr. Ball requested an indication of which recommendations represent a consensus of the full task force and, for those recommendations which were not consensus positions, some indication of what portion of the task force supported each recommendation. Dr. Ball also noted that the recommendations focused on consideration of new fueling station sites and expressed his interest in specific recommendations for existing fueling stations as well.
- Mr. Fox asked for Howard County specific data on underground storage tank leaks and other compliance issues. He also would like to see recommendations for other types of fueling stations.

- Mr. Weinstein asked for comparative data to see how each of the recommendations relates to other jurisdictions' regulations.

The task force members agreed to prepare a response to address the Council's additional questions.

County Council Budget: The Council discussed a preliminary flat budget proposal provided by Ms. Feldmark and Mr. Glendenning. Dr. Ball raised three areas which have come up in previous Council discussions which would have potential budget impacts – possible staffing or consulting needs related to New Town zoning, public information, and technology. Mr. Fox asked for FY2014 actual expenses and FY2015 estimated expenses. Ms. Terrasa expressed concern about DTCS prioritization of Council IT projects and needs and asked for additional information related to the data processing chargeback. Ms. Sigaty suggested scheduling a separate budget meeting for a broader conversation, and the Council members agreed to meet at 6:00 p.m. on February 17.

Council Member Reports: Ms. Sigaty said she did not have any additional items to report as Chair and noted that the Patuxent River Commission would be meeting the next day so she will have an update for the Council at its next monthly meeting. Ms. Terrasa provided a written MACo report and noted that Wednesday morning the Delegation will be meeting with Superintendent Foose and discussing the bond bill for the Harriet Tubman Center and Wednesday evening the Delegation will hold its public hearing on statewide legislation in the Banneker Room. Mr. Fox reminded the Council to let him know if anyone has any questions or comments regarding the upcoming NACo legislative conference. Mr. Weinstein announced that there will be a human trafficking update meeting next Wednesday, February 18, at 2:30 pm at the HopeWorks office

Administrator's Report: Ms. Feldmark explained her recommendation for amending the Council Rules of Procedure to eliminate the requirement to include the full text of amendments in the Council journal. Council members agreed with the rationale that this requirement is unnecessary, provides no additional value, and actually makes the journal more cumbersome. Ms. Sigaty asked Ms. Feldmark to draft a resolution making the proposed change and circulate the draft for Council review. Ms. Feldmark also reported on discussions with HCC looking at updating the grant agreement for GTV services for FY2016. Ms. Sigaty expressed her support for adding coverage of the Council's monthly meetings. Ms. Terrasa stressed the need for flexibility in coverage of special meetings and forums. Ms. Sigaty suggested that this topic be discussed further in the context of budget and the Council's public information needs.

Auditor's Report: Mr. Glendenning reported that he has had discussions with Dr. Sun regarding adding estimates of current year expenditures to the budget book and updated the Council on the status of various audit reports. He also reported that his staff is reviewing the capital budget submitted to the Planning Board.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:22 a.m.